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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : Confirmation No.:  
Applicant : Hiroshi KANNAN, et al.  
Filed : Concurrent Herewith  
TC/A.U. : Not Yet Assigned  
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
Docket No. : 101246.55144US  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : Processing Device and Processing Method

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

**Mail Stop PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE**

The relevance of JP 9-134912 and JP 6-120149 documents to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the specification of the present invention.

English abstracts summarizing the disclosures of the two (2) Japanese publications are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy

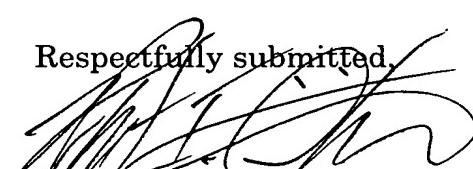
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned  
PCT/JP/03/00363  
July 16, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. 101246.55144US

of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing JP 2000-161215 and JP 2001-201375 documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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July 16, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
		Filing Date	Concurrent Herewith
		First Named Inventor	Hiroshi KANNAN
		Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	
		101246.55144US	

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> –Number <sup>4</sup> –Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP 2001-201375	07-27-2001	Horiba Ltd.		abstract
		JP 2000-161215	06-13-2000	Sony Corp.		abstract
		JP 9-134912	05-20-1997	Hitachi Ltd.		abstract
		JP 6-120149	04-28-1994	Applied Materials Inc.		abstract

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.